



HEALTH SOCIAL CARE AND WELLBEING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 13TH MAY 2014

SUBJECT: ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR TRANSPORT ADULT SERVICES

REPORT BY: CORPORATE DIRECTOR SOCIAL SERVICES

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To gain members views on the proposal to implement criteria for the provision of transport for adult service users. If subsequently agreed by Cabinet, the criteria will be implemented for all new service users and where an increase in amount of service is necessary for existing service users.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 Caerphilly County Borough Council is committed to promoting independence for individuals to enable them to access their community facilities. This will be fully considered within the person's assessment under section 47 NHSCCA 1990.
- 2.2 The implementation of robust eligibility criteria for transport will ensure focus is on promoting or maintaining independence, ensure equity across service user groups and enable the authority to manage its transport budget.

3. LINKS TO STRATEGY

- 3.1 Caerphilly County Borough Council has a duty to provide transport to service users assessed as having eligible needs by virtue of S.29 National Assistance Act 1948 (NAA 1948) and S.2 of the Chronically Sick and Disabled persons Act 1970 (CSDPA 1970). If a service user is unable to access services due to mobility issues then that person could be entitled to transport provided or arranged by the Authority. However, the provision or arrangement of transport will be in cases when there is no other alternative means of promoting the person's independence and failure to provide transport would prevent access to eligible services.

4. THE REPORT

- 4.1 The authority is committed to promoting independence for individuals to enable them to meet their own needs.
- 4.2 Currently adult social services funds transport to and from day centres primarily using mini buses, in addition taxis can be used if more appropriate.
- 4.3 At present there are 38 transport routes accessed by 580 number of service users across the borough operating Monday to Friday.

- 4.4 Transport can be commissioned as a one off provision if needed authorisation has to be by the appropriate service manager.
- 4.5 A transport review has already been implemented within Children's services, which has had a significant impact on managing the budget.
- 4.6 As part of their assessment (S.47 NHSCCA 1990) all options to promote a persons independence will be fully explored. This will include their mobility and will consider their ability to access suitable transport, including local and public transport networks.
- 4.7 Where appropriate, Caerphilly County Borough Council will consider whether the service user requires assistance in the following key areas: -
- Advice or training on the use of public transport
 - Promotion of increased mobility through the provision of physiotherapy
 - The provision of volunteer drivers (in the absence of family or friends)
 - Maximising their benefits, including mobility allowance

Caerphilly County Borough Council would only provide transport in exceptional circumstances in certain situations, for example: -

- Availability of a vehicle through the mobility scheme for an individuals use
 - Where the service user chooses to attend a service outside of their locality when a suitable service is available more locally
- 4.8 A wider consultation exercise will be undertaken with service users to inform a future cabinet report.

5. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 An equalities impact assessment has been completed and is attached as appendix 2.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 In the 2013/14 financial year the integrated transport unit held a budget for adult social care transport of £1.023m. However, projected spend for the year currently amounts to £1.178m. The introduction of a transport eligibility criteria will help to address this overspend and minimise the need to divert resources from other essential social care services.

7. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 There are no personnel implications.

8. CONSULTATIONS

- 8.1 All comments from the consultees are included in the report.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9.1 Members provide their views on the introduction of the transport eligibility criteria for adults to be applied to new service users and where an increase in service is deemed necessary for existing service users. Members views will be reported to Cabinet

10. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 10.1 The criteria focuses on promoting independence for individuals and, where possible, encouraging people to make their own arrangements for transport. The authority will only provide transport as a last resort.
- 10.2 Implementation will contribute to the management of the Adult Services budget which has been significantly over committed for several years

11. STATUTORY POWER

- 11.1 Local Government Act 2000.

Author: Jo Williams Assistant Director Adults
Consultees: Social Services Senior Management Team
Councillor Robin Woodyatt Cabinet Member
Adult Service Management Team
Mike Jones Finance
Transport Services
David A. Thomas (Senior Policy Officer, Equalities and Welsh Language)
Gail Williams, Interim Head of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer
Legal Services
Caerphilly People First

Appendices:
Appendix 1 Eligibility Criteria
Appendix 2 Equalities Impact Assessment